

# The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

February 1991



## 1991 Photography Contest for Young People



Entry blanks are now available for the Academy's ninth annual Photography Contest for Young People. All aspiring photographers, 18 years or under, are encouraged to submit their best photos for this year's contest. Winners will be chosen in seven categories: Plants, Animals, Landscapes, People at Work and Play, Experimental and Portraits. Cash prizes will be given to the winners in each category and a selection of winning photographs will be displayed in a museum gallery during the summer months. The entry deadline is April 19th, and you can get your entry blank by calling 750-7100.

### Members' Meetings

## *"The Chacoan Roads: Investigating Prehistoric Roadways in Northwestern New Mexico"*

Wednesday, February 13, 2 & 7:30

Thursday, February 14, 7:30



Helga Teiwes, Arizona State Univ.

During the 11th and 12th centuries A.D. the Chacoan cultural system evolved into one of the most complex puebloan lifeways in the prehistoric Southwestern United States. The seeds of Chacoan culture seem to have germinated in Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico. This culture was characterized by large, multi-storied houses, great kivas probably used for religious gatherings, well-developed crafts, and elaborate water control systems for maize agriculture.

At its height, this civilization established great houses on the peripheries of the San Juan Basin and constructed roads linking

these outlying communities to Chaco Canyon. These roads extend for distances of more than 50 miles and have bordered edges, ramps and stairways, both masonry and rock-cut. For a people without wheeled transport or beasts of burden, the size and complexity of the roads are difficult to explain.

In this slide-illustrated lecture, Dr. R. Gwinn Vivian of the Arizona State Museum, will examine Chacoan culture and discuss the development of their complex road system.

Next month Members' Meetings will be March 13 and 14.

## *Biodiversity Resource Center Opens at the Academy*

The Academy Library opened the "Biodiversity Resource Center" on January 17. Located near Life Through Time and Oceans Hall, this new information center allows the public to access detailed reference material about the importance of preserving diversity—of species, habitat, and indigenous human cultures. The center utilizes the latest technologies including: video tapes, video disks, audio tapes, and a 12 disk CD ROM drive which holds 2.4 million pages of information. Plan to visit this great new resource on your next sojourn to the Academy!



## Exhibits

### "The Vanishing Desert?"

February 23–September 2



The California desert, one of the largest unbroken sections of wilderness remaining in the continental United States, is a fierce but delicate land. The beauty and silence of its vast and diverse terrain is now in peril, threatened by those who seek to populate its valleys, harvest its minerals and penetrate its remote corners. At risk are the unique lifeforms which occupy the many habitats of this desert archipelago.

The Academy's new exhibit, "The Vanishing Desert?," examines these special ecosystems of California and the dangers which threaten them. The exhibit includes a huge, re-created sand

dune; living specimens of night lizards, rosey boas, kangaroo rats, giant scorpions, and the endangered desert tortoise; photo murals depicting the various unique environments of the desert; interactive displays featuring slide-up panels which reveal camouflaged or nocturnal desert inhabitants; and a video presentation of the escalating human impacts on the desert environment.

This new exhibit provides a commanding view of the fragile world of the California desert and serves to expand public awareness of the need to protect it. The exhibit will be on display through September 2.

## Young Audiences

One Sunday each month, Young Audiences presents a thrilling series of performing arts programs for children in the Academy's Morrison Auditorium. This month, on February 24 at 1 pm, *James Tyrone*

February 24, 1 pm

*Wallace-Reverence* will tell tales of heroism, using jazz, rap and poetry. His stories appeal to the cultural pride inherent in all children, and audiences are invited to join in his songs.

## Academy Ball



Get into the swim of things at "Seashore Serenade." This sixth annual black-tie event will be held throughout the Academy on Thursday, April 11th. Join us for a delightful evening of dining, dancing and festive entertainment. Tickets start at \$200 per person. Proceeds from "Seashore Serenade" will help support the new "Biodiversity Resource Center." This memorable event starts at 6:30 pm and lasts until midnight. To reserve your tickets for this special event and for more information, please call "Three in San Francisco, Inc." at (415) 296-7958.

## Sky Show "1991 Almanac"

The Morrison Planetarium's February show will be offering a sneak preview of the celestial events of the coming year. The show will review the total eclipse of the sun occurring on July 11th. Also in 1991, the Perseid and Geminid meteor showers will be visible when the moon is new or in its first quarter phase. "1991 Almanac" will run through February 24th. From February 25–28 the Planetarium will be closed. For more information, call 750-7141. Members don't forget that you need to redeem your passes for tickets at the Planetarium box office.

## Lecture

### "The Spectacular Karst Landscapes of China"

Tuesday, February 19, 7:30 pm



H. O. R. Sternberg

Distinguished scholar, Mei-e Ren, Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Geography and Ocean Sciences at Nanjing University, will examine the formation of China's unique karst topography in a slide/lecture presentation on February 19 in the Morrison Auditorium.

Karst topography is formed in irregular limestone regions which have sinks, underground streams and caves. As the streams and rain

erode the limestone, separate pinnacles form, and steep craggy hills arise from the luxuriant, green rice paddies. The mystery and beauty of these peculiar landforms has inspired Chinese artists for thousands of years.

Tickets for this lecture are \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. Please use the order form below to order your tickets. For more information, call 750-7128.

## Ticket Order Form

### "Karst Landscapes of China"—February 19, 7:30 pm

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Lecture only:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$3 member tickets

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 non-member tickets

Please send your check payable to the California Academy of Sciences and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:  
The Special Programs Office  
California Academy of Sciences  
Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco, CA 94118

No refunds/No exchanges

## Academy Travel



### EXPLORING THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST (May 17–27)

Spring in the Pacific Northwest! Wildflowers in bloom, spring warmth in the air and the desert country east of the Cascades at its greenest.

Come with us and explore the dramatic canyons of the Columbia and Snake Rivers and the fascinating chain of dams that harness the energy of these great rivers. We will visit the lush rainforest of Olympic National Park, the idyllic San Juan Islands where we may see whales, dolphins and bald eagles, and the charming Canadian city of Victoria, British Columbia.

Our home for this journey will be the comfortable 70-passenger *M.V. Sea Lion* with its skilled staff of historians and naturalists. These experts will help us find petroglyphs of ancient peoples, traces of the Lewis and Clark expeditions, and watch for wildlife and nesting birds. For more information about this trip or any of our trips, please call 750-7222.

## Junior Academy



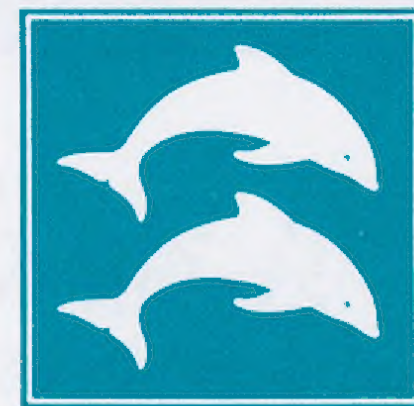
Wes Jenkins, CA

The Spring schedule of exciting, new Junior Academy classes is now available. If you're interested in obtaining a brochure, please call 750-7100.



City Arts & Lectures, Inc.  
Sydney Goldstein, Director  
presents

# California Academy of Sciences Conversations at the Herbst Theatre 1991



All Programs at 8PM



Thursday  
March 7

## BARRY LOPEZ

*Arctic Dreams; Of Wolves & Men; Crow & Weasel*  
In Conversation with Jerry Kay



Thursday  
March 21

## PETER MATTHIESSEN

*Far Tortuga; At Play in the Fields of the Lord;  
The Snow Leopard*  
In Conversation with Sedge Thomson



Wednesday  
May 15

## DIANE ACKERMAN

*A Natural History of the Senses*  
In Conversation with Sedge Thomson



Thursday  
May 23

## PAUL EHRLICH

*The Population Explosion; New World, New Mind*  
In Conversation with Wendy Tokuda

This series is made possible by grants from  
The Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund and  
The MacDonnell Foundation

For Ticket Information Call (415) 552-3656

### Ticket Order Form — “Conversations”

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard/Visa # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

#### Series Tickets:

CAS Members Series \$44 \_\_\_\_\_ Non-members Series \$48 \_\_\_\_\_

**Series Patron:** Contributors of an additional \$100 or more will be listed on the program as Series Patrons. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Mail check (payable to Performing Arts Ticket Service) or credit card number with self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Performing Arts Ticket Service  
1182 Market Street  
Room 216  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Ticket Fee \_\_\_\_\_  
Contribution \_\_\_\_\_  
Handling Chg. \$2.00  
Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

### Lecture Series

## “Exploring the Universe”

On February 12th, in the Morrison Planetarium, Dr. Martin Cohen will present “The Birth of the Stars.” The past decade has seen an acceleration in the pace of research on the birth of stars like our sun. Both observation and theory have now converged on a common picture of the earliest years of low-mass stars that shows a more vigorous and violent early history than previously understood. Dr. Cohen, Research Astronomer at UC Berkeley and NASA/Ames Research Center and author of “In Darkness Born: The Story of Star Formation,” will explore this intriguing topic. His talk will be followed by a book-signing.

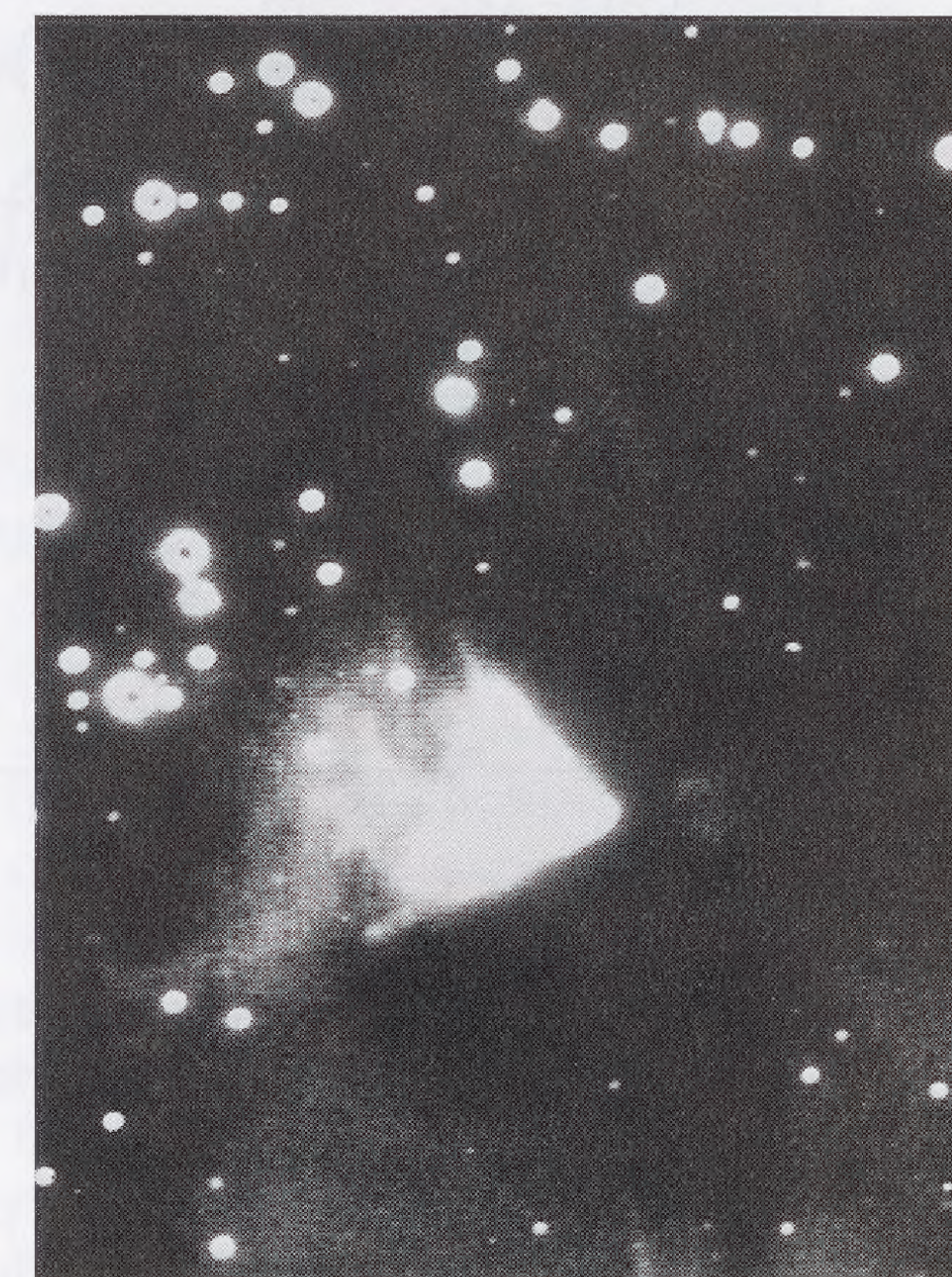
Other programs in this series are:

**March 19** — “Views of Venus (and Earth) from Galileo”

**April 16** — “COBE: Observing the Early Universe”

**May 14** — “Probing the Universe with the Hubble Space Telescope”

All programs begin at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$2.00 in advance and at the door on a standby, first-come basis. For ticket information, call 750-7129.



*The Birth of a Star*

### Adult Education



Island Institute

#### Orcas in the San Juan Islands

There are many wonderful and exciting programs being offered by Adult Education this year. An example of one of the “Great Adventure” programs is:

#### MARINE BIOLOGY OF THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS

From our base camp on a private island, we will spend a week exploring the magical San Juan Islands of the Pacific Northwest. Exciting marine science activities will bring us closer to the abundant wildlife of this great natural marine wilderness. Harbor seals, sea lions, bald eagles and whales are all summer residents. We'll hike along the island beaches, snorkel in the sea kelp forest, sea kayak in the early morning mist, and cruise with hopes of seeing a whale or two.

Island Institute has put together a great staff of experts who'll be sharing their knowledge and stories. The base camp will provide us with safari-style tents, hot showers, a jacuzzi, delicious meals and a place to call “home.”

August 10–16, 1991  
(Sat.–Friday)

Cost: \$795 members/\$850 non-members (\$200 deposit holds your space). Cost includes all land and boat transportation during week at camp, all meals and equipment, and extensive instruction. Does not include transportation to or from San Juan Island. Participants provide their own sleeping bags and pads. Call 750-7100 for more information about this and other programs.

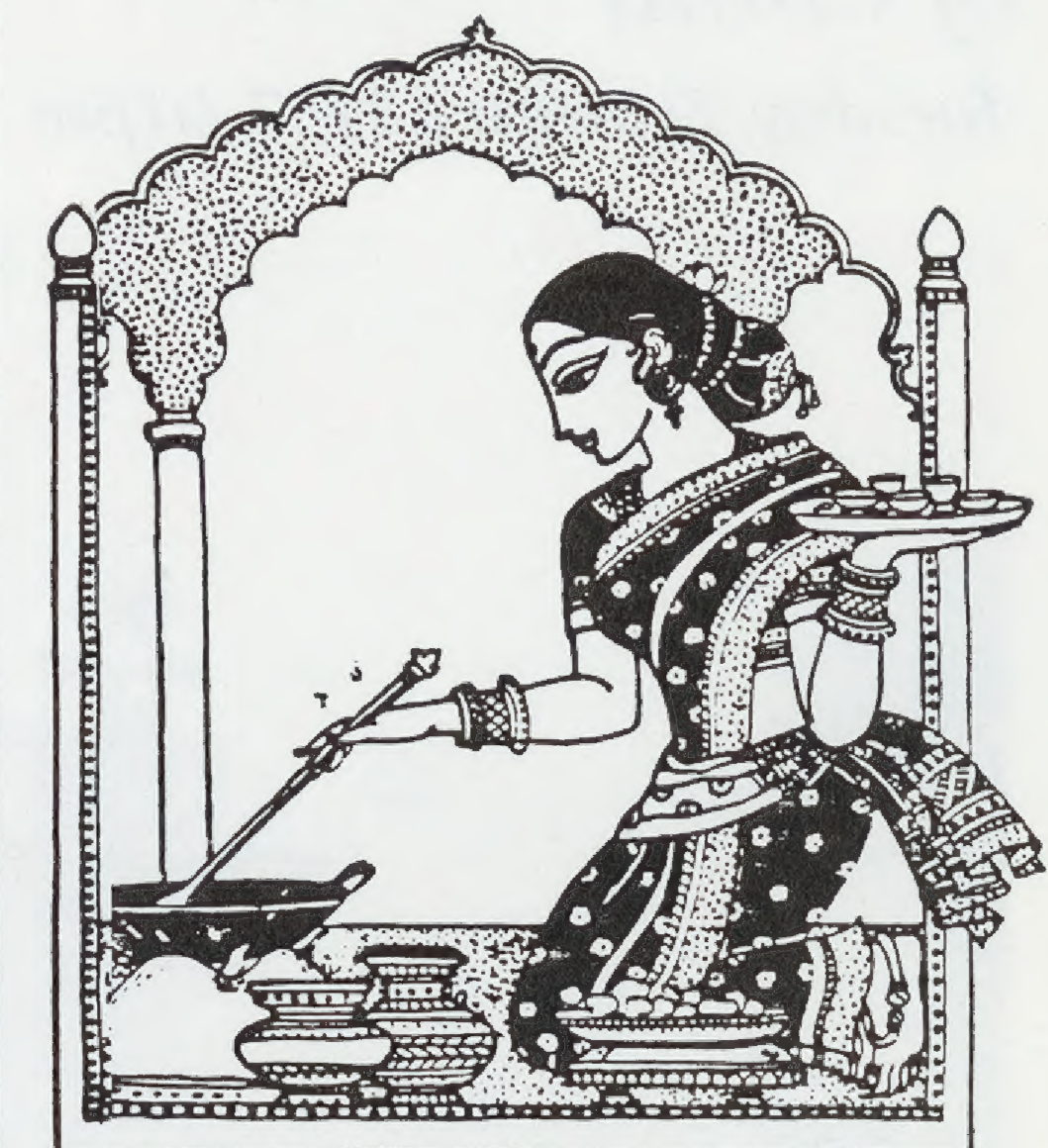
### Free First Wednesday

This month, the Academy celebrates Black Heritage with a special evening program for Free First Wednesday on February 6th. Come to the Motherland Cafe in African Hall for delectable African food and listen to the rhythms of the Eritrean Melody Band. Hear Lisa White from San Francisco State University speak about micropaleontology and the

#### February 6

challenges of being a Black scientist in the 1990's. Come to the Discovery Room for interactive exhibits from the world of nature. Try your hand at the hands-on activity for children and adults or listen to the Concert Under the Stars in Morrison Planetarium. It's all happening from 5-8 pm. This program is sponsored by the Bernard Osher Foundation.

### Traditional Arts Program



Journey to diverse cultures of the world with the Academy's Traditional Arts Programs every Saturday at 1 pm in Wattis Hall or Morrison Auditorium. This month our programs will focus on the cultural heritage of India. These programs are endowed by a gift from the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation and are free after general admission. Call 750-7142 for more information.

**Feb. 2** — Sukhi Singh prepares *khata kabuli chana*, a spicy dish made from garbanzo beans and originating in northern India.

**Feb. 9** — Sharad Moonat shows us how to hand-spin cotton fibers—skills which he learned from his father in Ratlam in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

**Feb. 16** — Anila Chaudhary presents a program on regional dress including the different ways of draping a sari.

**Feb. 23** — Kshama and Sunita Lodha demonstrate the techniques of *mebndi*—ceremonial painting of the hands and feet with henna dye. These intricate, lacy designs feature symbolic motifs and are an important part of bridal adornment.



*Time Dated Material  
Please Expedite*

*February 1991*

*Open daily 10 am to 5 pm*

*(415) 221-5100*

*Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco, California 94118-4599*



*Non-Profit Organization  
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San Francisco*

## *Calendar of Events*

### *February*

- 2 Traditional Arts, 1 pm
- 6 First Wednesday Night, until 8:45 pm
- 9 Traditional Arts, 1 pm
- 12 "Universe" lecture series, 7:30 pm
- 13 Members' Meetings, "Chacoan Roads," 2 & 7:30 pm
- 14 Members' Meeting, 7:30 pm
- 16 Traditional Arts, 1 pm
- 19 Lecture, "Karst Landscapes," 7:30 pm
- 23 Exhibit, "The Vanishing Desert?" opens
- 23 Traditional Arts, 1 pm
- 24 Young Audiences, 1 pm

### *March*

- 7 "Conversations" series with Barry Lopez
- 13 Members' Meetings, 2 & 7:30 pm
- 14 Members' Meeting, 7:30 pm
- 19 "Universe" lecture series, 7:30 pm
- 21 "Conversations" series with Peter Matthiessen

### *Academy Store*

## *B.Y.O.B. – Bring Your Own Bag*



*Use an environment-friendly tote bag from the Academy Store when you do your shopping. Instead of using paper or plastic bags, use the Academy's colorful Tote Bag (15" x 15" with 4" gusset). It's great for school, the beach or trips to the mall and costs only \$12.95.*